

REMARKS

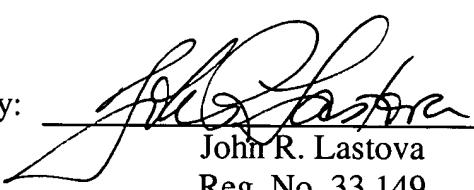
Applicant is uncertain as to the exact way in which to respond to this Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment since an Office Action dated November 21, 2002 has already been issued and a responsive of Amendment dated February 21, 2003 has also been filed. Accordingly, the amendments filed herewith is simply a substitute paper for the Preliminary Amendment filed on March 13, 2000. But the most current amendments are found Applicant's Amendment dated February 21, 2003.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth in the response dated February 21, 2003. Applicants should not suffer any reduced patent term since the Notice of Non-Complaint Amendment was not received by Applicant's attorney until the facsimile transmission on October 14, 2003. Nor was it mentioned in the Examiner's Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:


John R. Lastova
Reg. No. 33,149

JRL:at
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100